



communityactioninc.

February 5, 2010

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
US House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin,

This letter is written in support of the FY2011 Earmark Application being submitted by Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties. Community Action respectfully requests \$695,000 to provide capital improvements and training related equipment for the proposed Beloit Education and Training Center.

A range of data exists to show that poverty in the Stateline area is characterized by high rates of teen pregnancy, low educational achievement, particularly among minority youth and high rates of unemployment. Studies consistently show the long-term public costs associated with these dynamics.

Community Action has a proven track record of developing programs to effectively address these issues. Our experience has confirmed the premise that the most effective poverty strategy is access to opportunity and employment. Success requires access to good jobs and those require education, soft skills and job training. The proposed project will increase the availability of these services and will specifically target services to at-risk youth, teen parents, non-custodial fathers and those with multiple barriers to employment. The proposed site will facilitate the delivery of holistic services that not only build employment skills but also address employment related barriers, including health care, child care and transportation.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and strongly encourage approval.

Respectfully,

Joe Stadelman
Chair, Board of Directors

Corporate office

200 W. Milwaukee, St. Janesville, WI 53548-2916
tel: (608) 755-2470 fax: (608) 755-2246

www.community-action.org

Walworth County office

1545 Hobbs Drive, Delavan, WI 53115-2027
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**Office of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
Appropriations Request Form
Fiscal Year 2011**

All Appropriation Requests are due by 5pm (CST) on Friday, February 5, 2010. Late forms may not be eligible for an earmark request.

Completed forms should be sent via e-mail to Amber Shipley at amber.shipley@mail.house.gov. In the subject line of the e-mail, please put your organization's name, followed by "FY11 Appropriations Request Form" (i.e. Organization X—FY11 Appropriations Request Form)

All information included in this form may be made available to the public.

In addition to this form, you must submit a letter of support signed by the leader (i.e. Mayor, CEO, President, Executive Director, Chair) of the submitting institution or organization. This letter should explain in plain language why the project deserves public support. This letter may be made available to the public.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amber Shipley at amber.shipley@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-2906.

1. Name of Submitting Institution/Entity (municipality/institution/organization)

Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties

2. City and County of Submitting Institution/Entity

Corporate office: 200 W. Milwaukee Street, Janesville WI 53548 - Rock County. Pproject location is Beloit, WI -Rock County.

3. Primary Contact (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax)

Lisa Furseth
Executive Director
200 W. Milwaukee
Janesville, WI
p. 608-755-2472 (direct); f. 608-755-2446
lfurseth@community-action.org

4. Secondary Contact and/or Lobbyist Contact, if applicable (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax)

Not Applicable

5. Describe the organization's main activities and whether it is a public, private, or non-profit entity

Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties (CAI) is a non-profit, community development and human service organization serving all of Rock and Walworth Counties. The mission of the organization is "to provide access and opportunity for those we serve and those who support our efforts. Through innovative programs and strong community partnerships we eliminate barriers, establishing clear pathways to economic self-reliance."

6. Project Statement of Purpose

Please provide a brief description—no more than 3 sentences—about how funding will be used. In drafting your statement of purpose, we urge you to review how this project description will be used online as required by the House Appropriations Committee:

<http://tammybaldwin.house.gov/fundingrequests.html>

Funds will be used to support the development of Community Action's proposed Beloit Training and Education Center. The Center will enable Community Action to consolidate program activities in an accessible location and more importantly, enable us to cultivate and strengthen existing programs and partnerships and to expand and grow to better meet the needs of local citizens. Our goal is to create a space where people can “work and learn their way out of poverty”. Requested funds will be used to expand and enhance training tools and resources.

7. Project Summary

Please provide a narrative of no more than 500 words describing the project, including background, demonstrated need, how it fits within Congresswoman Baldwin's priority areas listed on the Factsheet, and use of funding.

According to the US Census, poverty rates in the Stateline area were 12.5 percent in 2007. Within the Merrill neighborhood, the poverty rate was more than 28 percent.

As a result of recent dislocations, unemployment in the Stateline area has risen to more than 17 percent. This does not include the uncouned and chronically unemployed.

A range of data exists to show that poverty in the area is characterized by high rates of teen pregnancy, low educational achievement, particularly among minority youth and high rates of unemployment.

Community Action has invested heavily in developing innovative programs to respond to these challenges. Our goal has been to increase employability, access to opportunity and to challenge the structural conditions that contribute to poverty in the area. The Fatherhood Initiative, Beloit Fresh Start, employability training for teen mothers, the Merrill Homeownership Initiative and our employer-driven Development Advisory Committee are a few examples. We have built effective programs, targeted particularly to those with multiple barriers to employment. These efforts, have resulted in substantial demand for services.

Community Action has historically operated in rented space within a local church. This space is no longer adequate, either in terms of size or the ability to operate the employment based programming that has become the core of our work. We have identified a new facility and are working to secure financing and funding to enable us to acquire the facility and build out basic program space. Community Action intends to co-locate an array of services in this facility. In addition to the current programs offered in Beloit, we will integrate other agency services, such as weatherization operations and a small satellite space for First Choice Women's Health Center, in order to enhance opportunities for our participants. For example, co-location of Weatherization and Fresh Start will facilitate energy training opportunities for our youth. Integration of First Choice allows us to more strategically support goals to reduce subsequent and unintended pregnancies among our participants. Projected cost for this phase of the project is \$1.5 million.

The funds requested through this earmark will be used to strengthen effectiveness, expand training and to integrate family-friendly enhancements. Specific enhancements targeted for funding through the earmark include: A construction workshop for Fresh Start; An energy training laboratory that allows individuals to learn basic energy and weatherization technology with hands on techniques; A small business center to support the implementation of a Job and Business Development program for low-income families; A training area that has technology enhancements to enable participants to access the growing array of web and video based training; And, a child care and play space that allows parents to both complete their training and care for their children. While the immediate goal is to enhance outcomes for those in poverty, we believe the space can be available to support similar goals for individuals throughout the community.

This project will address critical service needs for low-income constituents and will support economic development and viability by enhancing worker skills and training.

8. Appropriations Subcommittee from which funding is being requested (if known)

Labor, HHS, Education

9. Agency or Account from which funding is being requested (if known)

Unknown

10. Total Project Cost: \$2,500,000.00

11. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2011: \$695,000.00

12. Budget Breakdown/Timeline of Use of Funds (Example: salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000; renovations \$10,000; etc.)

Capital Improvements/Renovations \$400,000
 Equipment \$225,000
 Salary \$75,000
 Total: \$695,000

Project timeline - Completion within 9 - 12 months of award, with staffing to continue through initial project implementation (18 months).

13. Federal Appropriations Funding History for this Project

If applicable, please indicate for each prior earmark how the funds have benefited the public (Example: jobs created, economic impact, etc.).

Total amount appropriated and summary of how the funds have benefited Wisconsinites:

FY10 Appropriation: None

FY09 Appropriation: None

FY08 Appropriation: None

FY07 Appropriation: None

FY06 Appropriation: None

FY05 Appropriation: None

14. Have you submitted this request to any other Members of Congress or Senators? If so, which one(s)?

We are considering a similar request to Senator Kohl but a final decision is still pending.

15. Will this project proceed if no federal tax dollars are earmarked for it? If only a portion of the request is funded by an appropriation, will the project proceed?

The initial project will proceed, however, it will not incorporate the training enhancement included in this proposal.

16. What other sources of funding are you pursuing? Have you pursued funding for this project through the federal procurement process? Have you applied for competitive grants to fund this project? If so, which one(s) and when? Were you successful? Please indicate if you would like further assistance from Congresswoman Baldwin concerning federal procurements or competitive grants.

The project will be funded with a combination of traditional financing and private fundraising. A request is also in process to access New Market Tax Credits to reduce financing costs.

17. Is this a one-time request, or do you expect that you will request further earmarks in future years?

We do not anticipate future requests for this project.

18. Is funding for this project required by a certain date? If so, when will funding no longer be useful?

Funding could be effectively utilized through calendar year 2011 and potentially beyond. Notification of funding by early 2011 will be key for planning purposes.

19. Are State or local matching funds available if required? If so, how much?

Many projects have a cost-sharing requirement which can range between 20-45 percent. (Example: a \$1 million project with a 45 percent match requirement would receive a maximum of \$550,000 from the federal government and the remaining \$450,000 would have to be paid for through a non-federal source.)

Community Action will be investing approximately \$1.8 million in this project but does not have additional identified match for the specific expenses included in this proposal.

20. Priority number

If applicable and one entity is submitting multiple requests, please rank this request as compared to your other requests.

Community Action is a collaborator (not fiscal or administrative agent) for another project to increase mortgage foreclosure and related financial counseling to unemployed/dislocated workers in Rock County. This Training and Education Center project is a priority for Community Action.

21. Department of Defense (DOD) requests only

- a. Have you spoken to a Department of Defense official (from any branch) about the feasibility of this project?
- b. If yes, please provide contact information for this official (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax).
- c. All DOD appropriations requests must include a completed House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D) form as well. Please ensure that the following section of the HAC-D form is completed before submitting both the HAC-D form and Congresswoman Baldwin's form.

d. Provide only one of the following (this section MUST be filled in):

Military Personnel Budget Activity #:


Operation and Maintenance Budget Activity #:

Procurement P-1 Line #:

RDTE R-1 Line #: PE #:
Intel Line #:

22. Constituent Certification

I hereby certify that the information included in this form was prepared by me and can be made available to the public.



Signature

Lisa Furseth

Printed Name